

TAX DEED TITLE UPSET BY COURT

Justice Gould Comments on
Odd Transaction.

PROPERTY ON DEPOT SITE

Illiterate Widow Bought Out by Ex-
perienced Dealer—Heirs Claim In-
competence of Transfer.

Another tax deed title has been upset by Justice Gould. In the case of Thomas H. Rutherford and others against Mattie R. Slater and John G. Slater and others, Justice Gould has signed a decree vesting the title to premises 535 First Street northeast, in the complainants, as the heirs of Emma F. Rutherford, their brother.

The property is said to be located within the territory to be occupied by the Union Station. It is said to have been worth about \$1,500 in 1896. The Washington Terminal Company has offered Mrs. Slater \$2,000 for it since the legal proceedings concerning it were begun.

History of the Property.

The circumstances under which the property passed to the defendants, as stated by Justice Gould in reviewing the matter in his decision, are:

According to the will of William Mosabee, Emma F. Rutherford, the mother of the complainants, was given a life estate in the property, with a remainder in fee to her legal heirs. She occupied the premises for about thirty years.

In May, 1898, she was approached by John G. Slater, who said he had purchased the property at a tax sale, and that she would have to vacate, the amount of over \$1,000. It was claimed that Slater offered her \$200 for her interest in the property.

Relying on Slater's representation, Mrs. Rutherford accepted the proposition. When she went to Slater's office to sign the deed, it was contended, he required her to bring her four children, the complainants, with her, to join her in making the conveyance. It is also said that at the time the deed was made three of the complainants were minors.

Deed Not Read.

It is also said they did not read the deed nor was it read to them. By reason of the representation made them by Slater they say they were induced to part with the property.

The defendants filed a joint answer to complaint, in which Justice Gould, in his review, says, that John G. Slater, as his wife's agent, called upon Mrs. Rutherford to purchase the property, and that it was contended, he required her to bring her four children, the complainants, with her, to join her in making the conveyance. It is also said that at the time the deed was made three of the complainants were minors.

It was also contended by the defendants that each of the complainants understood they were selling their interests in the property.

At the hearing, Daisy B. Palmer, a complainant, said she was present at the interview between Slater and her mother, and that he told her the property was taken up with taxes, and that she took the \$200 he offered, the house would be taken from her. She said that neither she nor the other children knew they had an interest in the property.

She further said that her sister, Mrs. Mullen, asked Slater to let her see the paper, and he answered that their signing was a mere formal matter. Three other complainants corroborated this last statement.

Saw Deed Signed.

Mr. Slater's son, present when the deed was signed, says it was read to the complainants. He, however, says he did not hear his father tell what interested the complainants had in the property. Slater's testimony, said, "I told Mrs. Rutherford that I had bought it in for taxes and there was twenty years' taxes on it."

In speaking of the signing of the deed, he said:

"I read them the deed and told them the contents of the deed and told them of their heirship, and they stated they knew it. I asked them if they were willing for the transaction, and they said they were. They were told their mother to get the money."

In summing up the case Justice Gould said:

"The defendant, Slater, a man experienced in dealing in tax titles and securing cancellation of back taxes, ascertained that the property in question was subject to taxes from 1880 to 1896. In the latter year he bought it for the taxes of the previous year. For this purchase he paid between \$9 and \$10. Next, Slater learned that a grocer named Skidmore had a judgment of \$34 against Mrs. Rutherford's life estate in the property. This he purchased several weeks before visiting her. Thus equipped he visits Mrs. Rutherford, a widow, illiterate (she signed the deed by making her mark) with five children, three of whom were infants, and in needy circumstances.

A Question of Veracity.

"Just what transpired at that interview may admit of debate. Mrs. Rutherford's daughter says Slater told her the property was taken up with taxes, that Skidmore was pushing to collect his judgment, and that unless she took the \$200 the house would be taken from her. Slater says he told Mrs. Rutherford that he had bought the property for taxes and that there were twenty years' taxes due on it."

"He said he did not know what the back taxes amounted to. If he did not know the amount of such back taxes, it is reasonable to presume that he represented to Mrs. Rutherford that such taxes, together with the Skidmore judgment and \$200, represented the full value of the property, which was payable in cash, as the back taxes did not exceed \$40 and the property, according to the weight of the testimony, was worth at least \$1,200."

"It does not appear that he had any negotiations with the plaintiffs as to the price at which they would sell. Indeed, the only testimony that they knew they had any interest in the property is Slater's statement that at the time the deed was executed, he told them of their heirship. In this he is not supported by his son, who was present, and is flatly contradicted by four of the complainants."

No Money Paid Complainants.

"There is no dispute that no one of the complainants received 1 cent of the consideration or that any agreement was made whereby they or any of them were to get any part of it. In fact, three of them were incapable in law of making a valid deed or contract or of authorizing one to be made for them."

"Should a court of equity," Justice Gould asks, "put its seal of approval on a deed obtained under such circumstances?"

After discussing the law governing the case, Justice Gould said:

"For the reasons given, I will sign a decree setting aside the deed and vesting the title in these plaintiffs, inasmuch as the complainants tender in their bill a willingness to repay the amount which Slater paid for the property. I will make that a condition of their relief, and the case is referred to the Auditor to state an account between the parties."

The complainants were represented by Creed M. Fulton and W. Walton Edwards.

Parker's Lieutenants To Refuse Bryan's Help

Convinced Nebraskan Remained in Party,
Say Chicago Advices, Only to Knife the
Ticket—Carter Harrison Incredulous.

CHICAGO, Ill., July 14.—With the return to Chicago of the new Democratic national committee comes the first intimation that William J. Bryan's help is not desired in the coming campaign and that steps will be taken to keep the former candidate off the stump. In the first place it is likely that the "Grand Ratification Round-Up" for the Middle West, which is being planned by Mayor Harrison will be vetoed by the Parker managers. At least it will be stipulated that Bryan shall not be one of the speakers.

Party leaders in Illinois assert that Bryan's statement, given out at Lincoln, Neb., has convinced the Parker managers that the former leader would do more harm than good to the ticket. It is permitted to take the stump. His utterances in the interview are all more antagonistic than favorable to the candidate, whose nomination, he says, was "secured by crooked and indefensible methods."

"It is evident," one authority asserts, "that Bryan intends to stay in the party and knife the candidate. He proposes to even up scores with the Democrats who went out of the party in 1896 and by their bolt accomplished his defeat. Not he declines to bolt because he knows he can knife the ticket more effectively by staying inside the party lines. The only thing that is left for the Parker managers to do is to repudiate Bryan openly and officially, and in my opinion, that is what they will do."

When the attention of Mayor Harrison was called to the report that Bryan's help was not wanted and that the Parker managers might try to call off the Bryan performance, he said:

"We invited Mr. Bryan to our picnic because we wanted him to come. Do I think he will help the ticket? I don't think anything about it. I know he will. I don't anticipate that anyone, by suggestion or hint, will attempt to interfere with our picnic or invitations for the same."

Where Meetings Have Been Held.

The congress has met at Spain, France; Paris, Madrid, Thelva, in Spain; Stockholm, Berlin, Mexico, and New York. Various governments have shown their interest in it, and crowned heads have invited the members to a luncheon. Spain and King Oscar of Sweden, have assisted at its sessions.

After their last meeting, held in October, 1902, at New York, the Americanists paid a visit to Washington, and they were received by President Roosevelt. The world's distinguished men and scholars have, at one time or another, been members of the International Congress of Americanists, such as the late Don Pedro, ex-emperor of Brazil; Auguste Renan, the Orientalist; Jules Oppert, the celebrated Assyriologist; the late Baron Nordenskjöld, the Arctic explorer, while the Duke de Loubat, patron of learning, is one of its leading spirits.

Fourteenth Congress.

The present congress, fourteenth in point of time, will meet at Stuttgart, the capital of Württemberg, under the patronage of King William II. The Kaiser has signified his intention to assist at the opening session, and has invited the members to a luncheon on August 18, at the royal castle, "Wilhelmshaus."

The sessions will be held in the festival hall of the famous Koenigsbau. The municipality of Stuttgart will give a guard of honor to the members of the "Stadtgarde," and there will be receptions by the Count and Countess von Lichtenstein, and to Schaffhausen. In this latter place the city will give a banquet to the Americanists, and illuminate the Falls of the Rhine for their benefit.

The Secretary of State has, at the suggestion of the director of the Bureau of Ethnology and the authorities of the Smithsonian Institution, appointed Father Currier one of the official delegates to the congress on the part of the United States. The Catholic University has also conferred upon him the honor of appointment as its official representative to the congress. He will read a paper on "The Indian Languages in the United States."

At the conclusion of the series of addresses were made by the Rev. Dr. Greene, of Calvary; the Rev. Dr. Muir, of Temple Baptist Church; the Rev. William H. Nevins, of Grace, and the Rev. Dr. Bittenger, former pastor of Westminster Presbyterian. During the evening letters of regret were read from the Rev. J. G. Butler, of Luther Memorial; the Rev. Dr. Stafford, of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, and the Rev. A. W. Pitzer, of Central Presbyterian.

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ATTENDS CONGRESS OF AMERICANISTS

Father Currier Appointed
by Secretary of State.

TO BE HELD IN STUTTGART

Kaiser to Entertain Visitors—Distinguished Scholars to Be Present.

The Rev. Charles Warren Currier, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church and chaplain of the Knights of Columbus for the District of Columbia, recently appointed one of the representatives of the United States by Secretary of State Hay to the International Congress of Americanists, at Stuttgart, Germany, will leave Washington for that city Saturday next.

The International Congress of Americanists is a body of scholars who meet every two years in one city or the other, either in Europe or America. Its object is to bring together scholars interested in the New World, its archaeology, ethnology, religion, philology, and history—papers upon these various subjects are read and discussed.

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SUFFERED MANY YEARS With a Complication of FEMALE DISEASES

Two Robust Women Who Owe Their Restored Health
and Usefulness to Pe-ru-na.

Tens of Thousands of Testimonials Received Yearly.

Thankful Women Who Have Been Cured
by Dr. Hartman's Free Treatment.

Miss Ruth Emerson, 72 Spangmore St., Buffalo, N. Y., writes:

"I suffered for two years with irregular and painful menstruation, and Peruna cured me within six weeks. I cannot tell how grateful I feel."



Any agency which brings health and strength to the afflicted is always a welcome friend, and today the market is so filled with useless and injurious medicines that it is a pleasure to know of so reliable a remedy as you place before the public."

Miss Ruth Emerson.

Pe-ru-na Is a Blessing to Sick Women.

"I want to do what I can to let the whole world know what a grand medicine Peruna is. For eleven years I suffered with female troubles, and complications arising therefrom. Doctors failed to cure me, and I despaired of being helped. Peruna cured me in three short months. I can hardly believe it myself, but it is a blessed fact. I am perfectly well now and have not had an ache or pain for months. I want my suffering sisters to know what Peruna has done for me."—Miss Marie Johnson.

The above testimonial is from Miss Marie Johnson, 11 Columbia, East Detroit, Mich., was worthy Vice Templar in Hope Lodge, No. 6, Independent Order of Good Templars. Miss Johnson, as so many other women also have done, found in Peruna a specific for a severe case of female weakness.

Pelvic catarrh is a phrase coined by Dr. Hartman, covering all that large class of diseases that used to be known as female weakness. The lower portion of the abdomen is called by anatomists the pelvis. The organs contained in this portion of the body are known as the pelvic organs. There are several of them, very delicate and very subject to catarrh. Few women escape entirely catarrh of these organs. While each case presents some minor difference as to detail, they are all in reality alike. Pelvic catarrh, therefore, is a generic term that covers all cases of catarrh of the pelvic organs. There is no cure equal in promptness and permanency to a short course of Peruna.

Peruna does not relieve these cases by temporarily mitigating some symptom, but by a removal of the cause. Many a woman can testify that local treatment does not permanently cure. A large multitude of women are constantly going from doctor to doctor to receive local treatment with little or no result. In Peruna these women find a prompt and permanent cure. Thousands upon thousands of testimonials to this effect are received by Dr. Hartman every year. The good that Peruna has accomplished in this class of cases can scarcely be overestimated.

Imitations of Peruna

Peruna has come to be recognized as the greatest remedy for catarrh in the world. At first competitors tried to deny this and insisted that their remedies were just as good. This was found to be impossible, however, and now imitations are springing up everywhere.

To successfully palm off an imitation of Peruna even for a short time is sure to be a money-making scheme, but no one who has ever taken Peruna can be fooled on these imitations. No conscientious druggist would sell one of them. Every purchaser should look carefully at each package of Peruna he buys to be sure that he is getting only genuine Peruna.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio, for free advice.

Leave Your Want Ads at Any of the Following Branch Offices of The Times

Before 11 o'clock a. m., and they will be inserted in The Times of the same evening.

For Sunday's paper leave them before 10 o'clock Saturday night.

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WM. G. GENTNER, cor. 14th and U Sts. N. W.

L. FRENCH SIMPSON, cor. 7th St. and Rhode Island Ave., and R St. N. W.

W. ARMSTRONG, cor. 7th and H Sts. N. E.

CHAS. H. BLUMER, North Capitol and R Sts. N. E.

R. A. VEITCH, 20th and M Sts. N. W.

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QUIGLEY'S PHARMACY, 21st and G Sts. N. W.

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W. H. CLARKE, 1219 32d St. N. W.

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H. T. BUTTS, cor. 4th St. and F Sts. N. W.

S. SACKS, cor. 9th and P Sts. N. W.

T. H. DOWNS, cor. 2d and E Sts. N. E.

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For All Other Classified Liners. Three or More Consecutive Days, One Cent a Word.

BAPTISTS BID PASTOR FAREWELL

Rev. C. C. Meador Gives Up
Active Work

AFTER FORTY-SEVEN YEARS

Congregation Celebrates in Church
Building—Number of Ad-
dresses Made.

More than 400 members of the congregation of the Fifth Baptist Church gathered in the auditorium of the church building last night for the purpose of bidding farewell to the Rev. C. C. Meador as his pastor, and to celebrate the fourteenth anniversary of the founding of the church.

Ministers from Washington extended their congratulations to the pastor for his successful administration of his duties through forty-seven years, for it was Mr. Meador who founded the congregation, and members of his flock testified in every conceivable manner the high esteem in which Mr. Meador is held.

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STARVING OLD MAN ATE GRASS IN FIELD

Was Discovered Lying Helpless on His
Back—Strange Food Lessened
Chances to Recover.

MANCHESTER, N. H., July 14.—Jeremiah Horan, eighty years old, who disappeared from his home here Monday, was found today in a field about two miles from the city. For several feet around him he had torn up the grass and eaten it. He had also eaten some oats.

Harvey Vezena found the old man lying helpless on his back. His first words were an entreaty for water. He was in a semi-conscious condition.